



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
Office of the Mayor
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

\$200,000 Grant Awarded to New Bedford to Support the Mayor's Summer Youth Program

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The City of New Bedford has been awarded a \$200,000 state grant to support the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. This grant is part of a statewide \$1.3 million in youth summer jobs funding delivered by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, that allows for local communities to provide positive summer opportunities for young adults. Of the 21 communities across the state who will receive funding, New Bedford was awarded the second largest grant, after the City of Boston with \$250,000.

Since he announced in April that he would this year initiate an expanded summer jobs program to provide New Bedford youth with a combination of work experience, education and community activities, Mayor Scott W. Lang has appealed for the support of the business community. "I am pleased to report that we have secured an additional \$31,000 in private donations and other grants increasing the total funding raised for the Mayor's Summer Youth Program to \$231,000. Just last week, Veolia Water presented the City with a \$10,000 check because they share our community's commitment to providing opportunities for our young people. This program strives to teach our children the importance of maintaining a good work ethic, a sense of personal responsibility, and pride in their community. I sincerely thank all of the businesses and individuals who have come forward in support of this worthwhile endeavor," said Mayor Lang. "I applaud State Senator Mark Montigny, and State Representatives Robert Koczera, Antonio F.D. Cabral, John Quinn, and Stephen Canessa for their constant efforts to bring state resources such as this funding back to New Bedford," continued the mayor.

The Mayor's program provides two different types of opportunities for young people to engage positive, meaningful work, while exploring different career paths: 1) Hourly wage work program for youth 16 and older 2) Stipend program for youth 14-15 years of age. Eighteen different non-profit organizations and city departments will provide job opportunities for the hourly wage component. Areas of opportunity include: clerical, maintenance, camp counselors, zookeepers, childcare, community outreach, voter registration and the arts. The stipend program will engage 160 14-15 year olds in community service projects and other service learning opportunities. Youth that successfully complete the stipend program will receive a \$250 award at the end of the summer.

Citizens of New Bedford interested in participating should contact the New Directions Youth Department at 508-979-1616. In an effort to match every youth seeking real work experience with an opportunity, the City of New Bedford continues to seek contributions to support this program. Anyone interested in contributing to this program should contact Ms. Catherine Rollins in the Mayor's Office at (508) 979-1410

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